

## ARIZONA SENTINEL Yuma Southwest

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## AFRAID OF THE PEOPLE

Extreme conservatism, all tending toward the reactionary, seems to be the dominant note in the proceedings of the convention formulating a new constitution for the state of New York. Of such doctrines as the initiative and referendum and the recall there is scarcely an echo, says a review of the work already done.

Pre-eminent in the preliminary deliberations have been the questions of court reform, reorganization of the state government, reforms in the budget and fiscal system of the state and home rule for municipalities.

Woman suffrage has now ceased to be an issue since both parties have agreed that this question shall be submitted separately by the legislature.

The opposition of the boss ridden delegates from the rural sections will probably defeat the short ballot proposition for political reasons. It is likely, though, that a shorter ballot than the one now in vogue will be provided for. Under the short ballot as the term is generally understood only the governor and lieutenant governor are elective. Some advocates would also add the attorney general and the state controller.

In reforming the state's financial system, the advocates of reform, as in the case of the short ballot, will have vigorous opposition from the standpat element among the bosses of both parties. The political boss is naturally anxious that the lawmaking body should not be disturbed in its present control of the budget making and that log-rolling remains possible.

If the advocates of reform succeed in getting their plan through it will mean that the budget will be initiated by the

governor and submitted to the legislature, which will have power to reduce but not to raise any of the items recommended by the governor.

The strength of the politicians is also seen in the probable failure to adopt an appointive judiciary for an elective one. The latter may be submitted to the people as an alternative proposition to be voted on contemporaneously with the new constitution.

The sentiment of the convention seems to be against giving cities complete home rule. While allowing them to initiate all legislation affecting them, the veto power is to be held by the legislature.

In the matter of taxation, the proposal to do away with the exemption on certain property held by churches and by institutions of an educational, charitable or philanthropic nature has been definitely killed. If the views of the committee on taxation prevail, the legislature will be enabled to enact laws lodging the ultimate powers in connection with taxation in some central body instead of in local boards as at present.

There has been some agitation to have the state convention restored by constitutional mandate as a vehicle for party nominations. But, while nearly all the leaders believe that the convention is to be preferred as a nominating medium, it is not likely that the suffrage committee will recommend any drastic change.

An educational test for voters will likely be defeated. Capital punishment will also be retained.

## STATE CONTROL OF LOCAL ROADS

The realization has become quite general that, in order to render maximum service, State highway departments should be given some measure of control over the construction and maintenance of local roads.

For this class of roads an amount exceeding \$160,000,000 is expended annually, with comparatively little result to show in the form of improved road mileage for this great outlay.

The State of Iowa has met this situation by placing all the road work in the state

under the direction of the state highway department.

Traffic is increasing so rapidly as to cause excessive wear upon the roads, especially in the vicinity of congested centers of population.

This results in a heavy annual maintenance cost, averaging in the large eastern states not less than \$750 per mile per annum. Many experiments have been made in the effort to devise types of road which can be maintained at relatively low cost. Thus far, aside from the cheaper forms of construction, the states are depending upon the various forms of bituminous macadam, concrete, and vitrified brick road.—Yearbook, U. S. Dept. Agr.

## THE DISASTER OF BELGIUM

Papers the other day chronicled the fact that the Commission for Relief in Belgium has sent there 426,966 tons of food at a cost of \$70,000,000. This huge mountain of food made for the people of King Albert's domain means a daily ration of only ten ounces for each person. A soldier's ration is supposed to represent the best and most concentrated food supply, but a soldier gets three times the amount parceled the Belgians.

Could anything disclose more quickly the magnitude of the disaster which has befallen Belgium and the extent of the relief work which more fortunate ones are carrying forward and without which Belgium must perish?

It is flashes of intelligence like this that do more to convey an adequate idea of the war than the screaming shells. This and the fact that in some of the belligerent countries government orders forbid widows and others from wearing mourning except one day a week, so black would be the daily cloud of grief, help tell the story.

It is probable that only long after the peace pact is signed, when the minds of men are restored to normal, will the world be able to get an adequate conception of what has taken place in Europe within a year.

Then, too, will the world learn of the tremendous relief work done. In many ways the results of this same Com-

# Morning Sun

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mission for Relief in Belgium are nigh incredible. The fact that thus far its work has been done without a breath of scandal and with a high percentage of efficiency ought to encourage further contributions to its fund for it is evident that with all the food distribution that the Belgians must have more than 10 ounces of food a day.—Allentown, Pa., Herald.

Sim Freund, the popular haberdasher, of Main and First streets, is concerned about his sister, who lives in South America, where there has been an earthquake very recently. Telegraphic dispatches tell us that earthquakes were felt on Wednesday from the United States southwest to Scotland.

Brawley was visited by a \$160,000 fire last night; the Imperial Valley Hardware Co. was the heaviest loser.

Ala Wadin, chief bookkeeper of E. F. Sanguinetti, left for Frisco last night, to remain a month.

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